(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details whether Government is providing new planes in place of these planes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The technical condition of the existing aircrafts and requirement for new aircrafts are reviewed by the Government from time to time and necessary measures are taken thereon. This is a continuous process.

Permission to IAF to open fire against Naxalites

624. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF has sought permission to open fire against Naxalites in self defence in the event of its Helicopter and crew coming under attack and threat, citing instances of IAF personnel killed on earlier occasions;

(b) whether a specific permission is required when one is entitled to use force for the sake of self defence as per IPC in force; and

(c) what is the real purpose of asking for permission, how long it will take to issue due instruction on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) While permission is not required to exercise the right to self-defence, based upon past experience and intelligence input the Indian Air Force has sought approval of the Government for 'Rules of Engagement' for self-defence. These have been proposed to avoid any ambiguity and damage/injury to the helicopter and to the occupants.

Development of medium light helicopters by HAL

†625. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has dropped its projects for development of medium light helicopters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of the project started in 2006 for development of light combat helicopters;

(d) whether there is any proposal for export of indigenously developed helicopters; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.